

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-41. (Cancelled)

42. (new) A method for processing a protein-containing material comprising the following steps:

contacting reactants and creating a reaction mix; wherein the reactants comprise an animal-derived protein-containing material and an alkaline material, and wherein a reaction product is obtained which comprises peptones; and

separating the reaction product using a membrane filter resulting in a lower molecular weight peptone-containing permeate and a higher molecular weight peptone-containing concentrate.

43. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein the animal-derived protein-containing material comprises a poultry waste material.

44. (new) The method described in claim 43, wherein the poultry waste material is selected from the group consisting of feathers, offal and combinations thereof.

45. (new) The method described in claim 42, wherein the alkaline material comprises sodium hydroxide.

46. (new) The method described in claim 42, wherein the concentration of the sodium hydroxide in the reaction mix ranges from 0.1 to 2.0 wt%.

47. (new) The method described in claim 42, wherein the pH of the reaction mix is 8 or higher.

48. (new) The method described in claim 42, wherein the temperature of the reaction mix is above 90° C.

49. (new) The method described in claim 42, wherein the reactants in the reaction mix are contacted for a period of less than six hours.

50. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein at least 75% of the peptones in the obtained reaction product have a molecular weight of less than 6000 Da.

51. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein a membrane filter is used which has pore size in the range from 10 Å to 50 Å.

52. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein a membrane filter is used which has pore size in the range from 20 Å to 30 Å.

53. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein in the step of separating the reaction product a filter is used which allows to capture substantially all of the peptones having a molecular weight of at least about 1,000 Daltons in the peptone concentrate.

54. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein at least 75% of the peptones in the concentrate have a molecular weight between 1000Da and 6000 Da.

55. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein substantially all of the peptones in the permeate have a molecular weight of less than 1000 Da.

56. (new) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of pre-filtering the obtained reaction product through a filter having a pore size ranging from about 0.2 microns to about 5 microns prior to the step of separating the reaction product.

57. (new) The method of claim 42, further comprising the additional step of spray-drying the separated peptones.

- 58. (new) The product made by the process of claim 42.
- 59. (new) The product of claim 58 having a dry whiteness of L exceeding 55, a dry flowability angle less than 60 degrees without tap, and a solubility in water of at least 0.01915 gm/ml.
- 60. (new) A fertilizer comprising the product according to claim 58.
- 61. (new) A pet food comprising the product according to claim 58.